

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, November 19, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary  
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin**

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd**

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Howard Askins, Lana Brody, Victoria Sofro, and Phillip Chen

**III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin**

**The minutes for the October 23, 2009 meeting were approved and adopted (Wolff/Rabens).**

**IV. Chair's Report**

**MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting** – The meeting was held November 10, 2009. The group discussed the following issues reported by Terry Lewis, Executive Director:

- **Staff Support** – The issue of providing staff support for the SAACs was discussed with Dr. Southard. The objective is to expand the role of DMH interns. This can be done by rewriting the intern duty statement to include assisting DMH staff at the SAAC meetings.
- **Translation Services** – This issue was resolved during the weekly meeting between Dr. Southard, Jerry Lubin, and Terry Lewis. They decided to expand the current translation services used for the monthly Commission meeting and identify someone from the service area to volunteer as translator. Ideally, each SAAC will have its own translation equipment. Securing the equipment will be based on available funding. DMH Training Division facilitates the required training to certify translators.

**Executive Committee Meeting Highlights** – Larry Gasco, Vice Chair reported:

- The Commission formed a committee to review the bylaws. The Committee consists of Barry Perrou, Vicky Sofro, and Larry Gasco. The main function of the review is to reorganize the roles of the Executive Committee's secretary and vice chair position.
- DMH Report – Dr. Southard gave an update on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans, the strategic plan development, and budgetary issues pertaining to the state's economic situation.
- Executive Committee Presentation - Dr. Beliz gave an extensive presentation on the programs in the Emergency Outreach Bureau. The information on school violence was progressive and innovative, and the details on the SWAT team collaboration were particularly fascinating.

**V. Commissioners' Reports**

**Commissioner Thompson** – Greg Thompson discussed a methodology to gather statistics for the people who utilize mental health services with physical disabilities that can be done through a peer review panel. The first step looks the data; second step looks at the evaluation to plan what needs to be done. Another other issue that is a long term goal is the difficulty in finding locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. One option is to designate a default hospital able to manage the physical needs such as LACUSC to accept non voluntary psych admissions. Further exploration needed.

Mr. Thompson attended a California Wellness and Prevention conference in San Francisco and met many people who are interested in running preventions programs.

USC sponsored a forum about incarcerated individuals that included a breakdown of recidivism rates. The numbers reflect more drug and rehabilitation courts are needed to provide wraparound services and reduce incarceration.

The "KnowBarriers Life Coaching Program" recently graduated 30 individuals; there wer over 100 family members and supporters in attendance. Supervisor Don Knabe provides financial support for KnowBarriers and handed out the certificates. KnowBarriers is a structured Life Coaching program designed to assist individual adjust

to a traumatic injury. They also provide a community violence prevention program at 4 Compton Middle Schools.

**Commissioner Huffman** – Delores Huffman received the monthly Housing Report in the mail however, copies of the report was not available the meeting for Commissioners to review. Ms. Huffman later contacted the Housing Services staff to provide the report to staff to include in minutes.

### **MHSA Housing Program**

29 projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of November 16, 2009 is shown below:

#### **Initiating Service Planning/Technical Review Process**

- Swarthy World Society
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Willis Avenue Apartments

#### **Finalizing Service Plan for Posting**

- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- KIWA Apartments
- Parker Hotel
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Menlo Family Housing

#### **Public Posting in Process**

- PWC Family Housing
- New Genesis Apartments

#### **Technical Submission under Review**

- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- NoHo Senior Villas
- 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA Residences

### **Application Submitted to the State**

- Osborne Place Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments
- Horizon Apartments

### **Approved for Funding by the State**

- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

### **Housing Trust Fund**

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, nine projects are in operation as of November 16, 2009. The remaining three projects include Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011, and Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center, both slated to open in fall 2010.

As reported previously, on August 25, 2009, a Request for Information (RFI) was released to determine if there were any potential contractors with demonstrated capability and interest in providing on-site supportive services in permanent supportive housing or shared housing projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The review process revealed 7 organizations that appeared to have eligible projects. The Department is finalizing a request for additional information for these 7 organizations with the goal of possibly entering into competitive negotiations with the respondents.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding**

The Department continues to seek potential opportunities to work with local cities and governments who have received NSP funding to leverage this funding with MHSA Housing Program funding.

#### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding**

The Department was recently awarded \$51,051 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program National Board; federal stimulus funding administered at a local level by the Los Angeles County United Way. Currently, the funding is being utilized countywide to provide rental and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the recession.

**Commissioner Caballero** - George Caballero provided an update on older adult services goal for fiscal year 2009/10. Mr. Caballero continues to work with providers to promote interest in careers with the older adult population. Mr. Caballero interviewed two contract agencies and two non contract agencies; the universities have yet to respond. Mr. Caballero has identified a presenter for January 2010. The presenter is Ms. Cynthia D. Banks, Director, Community and Senior Services Department.

**Commissioner Perrou** – Dr. Barry Perrou provided an update on the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Commission's plan to request the BOS convene a feasibility study on a transportation mechanism for persons placed on 5150 holds by law enforcement. The EMS Commission is requesting for an outside consultant to do an independent review of the issue. EMS will follow up with a request to the BOS to get approval and "buy in."

**Miscellaneous** - The Commissioners discussed and/or finalized the following items:

1. The department's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Symposium will be held May 20-21, 2010 at The California Endowment Center. The Commission's awards ceremony will be held later in the afternoon on May 20 tentatively from 1:30 – 4 pm. The Commission is planning to invite State Representative Grace Napolitano as keynote speaker.

2. The Commission voted on two possible dates to hold their annual retreat in June 2010. June 12 was date selected and the location will be the home of Dr. Helen Wolff.

**VI. Departmental Report – Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director and Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst**

Dr. Shaner provided an overview of the Clinical Snapshot. He spoke about specific areas in the narrative section that are updated each month. The discussion included the report layout and critical areas such as the managed care and the complaint components. These components connect DMH to the performance levels of 35 hospitals within Los Angeles County.

Dr. Shaner stated next month DMH will be switching to the claims reimbursement system initiated by the state. The switching process suspends reimbursements to contract agencies for three months.

Dr. Shaner commented on the public hearing planned immediately after the commission meeting.

The Innovations Plan is associated with the 1115 Waiver Renewal component of MHSA. The plan allows for \$40 million funded to Los Angeles County for two years and \$2 million will follow. The 1115 Waiver integrates health and substance abuse with mental health. An important part of the plan is to gather new data on who are receiving what services and what specific populations can be served.

**Susan Rajlal, DMH Legislative Analyst**

Ms. Rajlal reported mental health was mentioned favorably in the health care reform but pilot programs for IMD ancillary services did not pass. Ms. Rajlal met with senators when they are in Los Angeles County to ensure the needs of LA County are heard. In January 2010, Ms. Rajlal will be attending legislative briefings in preparation for the budget cycle that starts in May 2010.

**VII. Community and SAAC Reports**

**SAAC 2 – Roberta Burkenheim (sent via fax)**

Ms. Burkenheim reported SAAC 2 met on November 10, 2009 at 9 am. Seventy-five attended consisting of service providers, clinics, consumers, and family members to discuss the following:

- Issues involving the service area community
- Status of the DMH strategic plan input requested by Dr. Robin Kay
- Update resource directories for the Service Area
- Producing resource directories for all service areas
- Stipends for consumers to facilitate training sessions on completing applications and accessing low-cost services. Stipends will not interfere with benefits.
- Encourage consumers to come to client-run meetings and activities that facilitate wellness and recovery.

The Victory Clubhouse' Annual Thanksgiving Dinner prepared 250 dinners for expected guest; the event was a success.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

- Phyllis Coto – \$90,000 is being spent on a two-day conference on Advocacy in these hard budget times. The LACCC members and affiliates were not notified of this action. Mr. Ed Vega does not take the time to meet with the executive board on important discussions. We were not even given an outline of what he plans to do. The LACCC is treated as invisible. We feel we are disrespected. If Mr. Vega is busy he needs to have a liaison attend our meetings to work with us and deliver important information to him, and we expect to review what is going on from his office.

**ACTION** – Commission request a report from the Department regarding the statement during public comment about funding allocations and other issues regarding Eduardo Vega.

- Maria N. Tan – The INN Plan is an excellent plan for system transformation. A lot of consumers and family members will benefit in a positive way. I hope to continue serving them in the future. Service Extender have been a rewarding job for me at Genesis and coordinating mental health training at LACCC is a way of implementing the MHSA with the commissioners guidance. Thank you so much.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

**X. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGE**

**Thursday, December 17, 2009  
Noon – 2:30 pm  
San Antonio Mental Health Center  
2629 Clarendon Ave  
Huntington Park, CA 90255**

**Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if  
you need additional information**

Ch/ch